



## Department of Energy

National Nuclear Security Administration  
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### *News Media Advisory*

## **Nuclear Cities Initiative Program Bringing Russian Visitors to Oak Ridge**

Friday October 8, 1:30 p.m.  
1060 Commerce Park Drive, Oak Ridge

A group of visitors from the “closed” Russian cities of Seversk and Zheleznogorsk will visit Oak Ridge and tour selected Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration facilities as part of an economic diversification workshop October 7 and 8 in Oak Ridge.

The Y-12 National Security Complex is hosting the high-level delegation through DOE/NNSA’s Nuclear Cities Initiative program. The cities of Seversk and Zheleznogorsk have histories which parallel the history of Oak Ridge. These cities were built by the Soviet government and focused almost exclusively on supporting its nuclear weapons complex. They are “closed” cities because access to them is tightly controlled.

Russia is going through the same type of downsizing of its weapons complex that took place in the United States several years ago. The Russian government has been drawing on the United States’ experience in economic diversification for some five years through a DOE program called the Nuclear Cities Initiative.

DOE’s effort is to help the Russian government manage economic diversification and workforce transition. Part of the visit will be a discussion of Oak Ridge’s experience in diversification and an examination of resources developed to achieve this transition. Oak Ridge has a strong relationship with the city of Zheleznogorsk, having worked with its leadership for several years. Oak Ridge officials also hope to build a similar relationship with officials in Seversk. Each city has a population of more than 100,000.

The delegation is led by a chief specialist of RosAtom and includes the mayor of Seversk, the director of Siberian Group of Chemical Enterprises (SGChE), from Seversk, the deputy mayor of Zheleznogorsk, the director of the Mining and Chemical Combine (MCC) from Zheleznogorsk, and other Russian business leaders. The delegation will be meeting with DOE/NNSA officials and local business and political leaders as part of the visit.

Mr. Monte Mallin, NNSA Director of the Nuclear Cities Initiative, along with the mayor of Seversk, and the deputy mayor of Zheleznogorsk will be available to answer questions from the media on Friday, October 8, 1:30 p.m., at 1060 Commerce Park, Oak Ridge. If you are interested in attending this event, please call Bill Wilburn at 241-4937 no later than 10 a.m., Friday, October 8. If possible, please plan on arriving at the event no later than 1:15 p.m. Please bring photo ID with you to the event.

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